

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE:**

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Page 1, before line 5, change "Description" to --BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--.

Page 2, before line 3, add the heading --SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

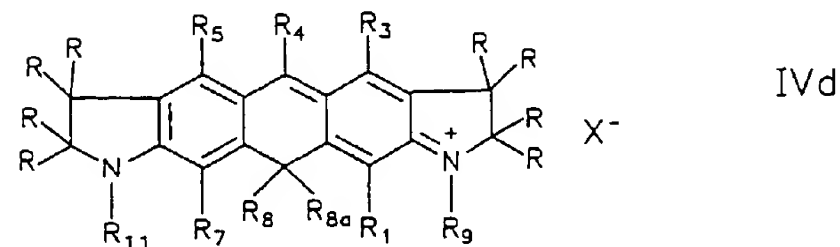
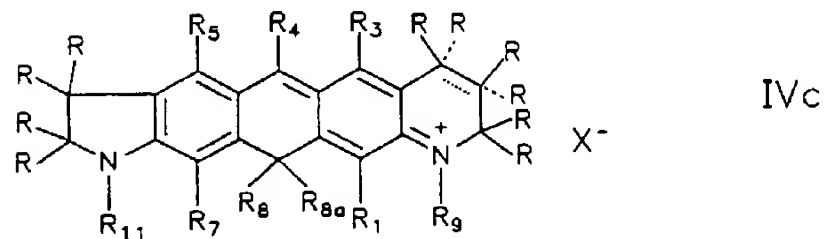
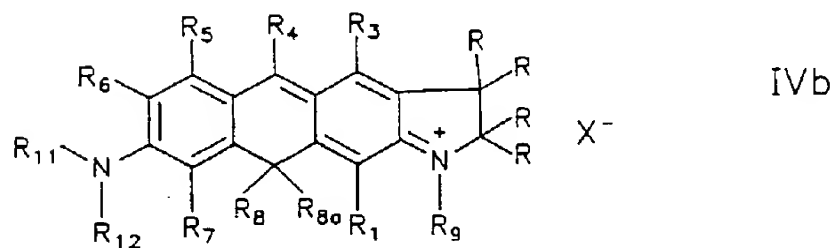
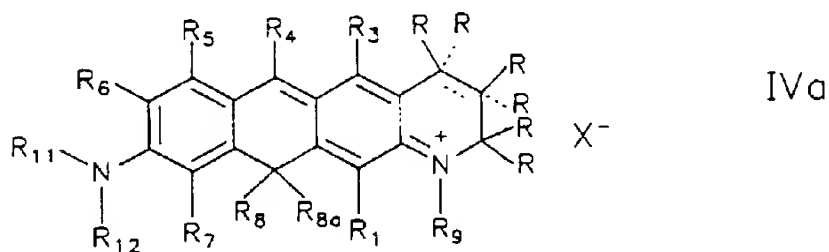
Page 33, after the heading "CLAIMS" and before the first claim add --What is claimed is:--.

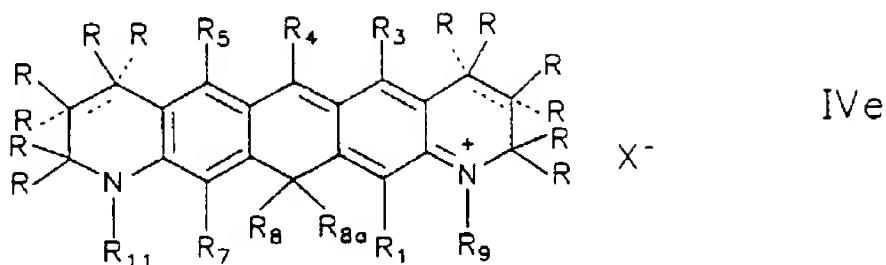
**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**Amend** the following claims:

3. The use as claimed in claim 1 ~~or~~ 2, characterized in that the detection procedure is selected from nucleic acid hybridization procedures and immunochemical procedures.
6. (Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 4 ~~or~~ 5, characterized in that R<sub>4</sub> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl or a radical containing an aromatic ring system.
7. (Amended) A compound as claimed in ~~one of claims~~ claim 4 to 6, characterized in that R<sub>8</sub> and R<sub>8a</sub> are in each case independently methyl, ethyl or/and phenyl.

8. (Amended) A compound as claimed in ~~one of claims~~ claim 4 to 6, which corresponds to one of the general formulae IVa to IVe.





in which

the dashed lines are optionally double bonds, and in the presence of the double bonds the radicals R bonded via a dashed line are absent,

R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>8a</sub>, R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>11</sub>, R<sub>12</sub> and X are as defined in claim 1,

and R, on each occurrence, can be identical or different and is defined as R<sub>1</sub>-R<sub>7</sub> in claim 1.

9. (Amended) A compound as claimed in ~~one of claims~~ claim 4 to 8, characterized in that it has a group capable of covalent coupling.
11. (Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 9 ~~or 10~~, characterized in that it is coupled to a carrier or/and to a biomolecule via coupling groups.
16. (Amended) The process as claimed in ~~one of claims~~ claim 14 to 15, characterized in that the catalyst is boron trichloride.

17. (Amended) The process as claimed in ~~one of claims~~ claim 14 to ~~16~~, characterized in that the acid is sulfuric acid, phosphoric acid or polyphosphoric acid.
18. (Amended) The process as claimed in ~~one of claims~~ claim 14 to ~~17~~, characterized in that the oxidant is tetrabutylammonium (meta)periodate.
19. (Amended) The process as claimed in ~~one of claims~~ claim 14 to ~~18~~, characterized in that the compound (I) is obtained without isolation of intermediates.

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## REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted preliminary to the issuance of an Office Action in the present application.

Applicant has amended claims 3, 6-9, 11, 16-19 to remove any multiple dependency of the claims. In addition, applicant has amended the specification to present it with proper headings.

When the Examiner takes this application up for action, it is requested to take the foregoing into account.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-0502.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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